

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 SPC-03

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01

SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 NSF-04 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 048854

R 191902Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9385

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18245

E.O. LL652:GDS

TAGS: TECH, EC, XT, CA, GW

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT - BRINCO  
PROJECT, COOPERATION IN GAS CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY

REF: A. STATE 245034 B. STATE 2450L3

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND SCIENCE  
ATTACHE CALLED ON APPROPRIATE FRG OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE  
TEXTS OF AEC-WYART EXCHANGES AND TO EXPLAIN US POSITION  
OUTLINED REF A. FRG REPS APPRECIATED BRIEFING BUT  
EXPLAINED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND GERMAN INDUSTRY WERE  
NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN PROMOTING PRODUCTION CAPACITY  
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IN EUROPE BASED ON GASEOUS DIFFUSION TECHNOLOGY. SO FAR

AS THEY KNEW, NO GERMAN UTILITY WAS A MEMBER OF OPEN. FRG HAS, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGED INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION IN CANADIAN BRINCO PROJECT. FRG REPS REITERATED THEIR WELL-KNOWN POSITION THAT GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT IS MOST APPROPRIATE FOR EUROPE AND EMPHASIZED THAT FRG WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO BRINGING IT INTO PRODUCTION. THEY ASKED EMBOFFS WHETHER COOPERATION WITH US IN GAS CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE POSSIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR REPLY TO FRG QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS CALLED ON DR. RANDERMANN, CHIEF FOREIGN OFFICE ATOMIC ENERGY SECTION, AS INSTRUCTED REF A. AT OUR SUGGESTION, RANDERMANN HAD ASSEMBLED APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES FROM MINISTRIES OF ECONOMICS AND OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. EMBOFFS DISTRIBUTED INFORMAL COPIES OF RELEVANT AEC-WYART EXCHANGES AND BRIEFED FRG REPS ABOUT HISTORY AND PRESENT STATUS THESE DISCUSSIONS. WE LEFT "NON-PAPER" WITH TEXT OF THREE POINTS CONTAINED PARA 4, REF A.

3. RANDERMANN APPRECIATED THIS REPORT ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF OPEN, ABOUT WHICH FRG NOT RPT NOT FULLY INFORMED. HE ASKED WHETHER PROPOSED GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT WOULD USE US OR FRENCH TECHNOLOGY OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH. EMBOFFS EMPHASIZED US POINT (C) FROM PARA 4, REF A, NOTING THAT PARTICIPATION OF PERTINENT EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE REQUIRED. THIS CRITERION NOT YET FULFILLED AND DETAILS OF SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE PROJECT HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED.

4. TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY REP REMARKED THAT FRG HAD LEARNED FROM ITS EARLIER PARTICIPATION IN EURODIF STUDY THAT HIGH ELECTRICAL POWER COSTS WOULD MAKE GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT IN EUROPE VERY UNECONOMIC. ACCORDINGLY, FRG BELIEVED THAT GAS CENTRIFUGE WAS BEST TECHNOLOGY FOR EUROPE AND WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING IT INTO PRODUCTION. FRG VIEWED POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT IN EUROPE WITH "MIXED FEELINGS." IT WOULD NOT ONLY BE WASTEFULLY UNECONOMIC BUT WOULD  
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DETRACT FROM GAS CENTRIFUGE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT.

5. REPRESENTATIVES OF OPEN HAD TALKED TO ALL EUROPEAN POWER PRODUCERS, INCLUDING THE GERMAN UTILITIES. SO FAR AS FRG KNEW, ALL GERMAN FIRMS WERE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE AND SAW NO NEED FOR GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT IN EUROPE. IN ANY EVENT, NO GERMAN UTILITY HAD REQUESTED FRG INITIATE OR ENDORSE NECESSARY

GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT CONTACTS WITH USG ON THEIR  
BEHALF.

6. FRG HAS ENCOURAGED GERMAN INDUSTRIES TO PARTICIPATE  
IN BRINCO PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION IN CANADA OF  
GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT USING US TECHNOLOGY. FRG HAS  
SUBSIDIZED SIT PARTICIPATION IN FEASIBILITY STUDY ON  
50-50 BASIS WITH GRANT OF DM L.5 MILLION. SIT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18245

(STUDIENGESELLSCHAFT FUER URANISOTOPENTRENNVERFAHREN)

FORMERLY THE GERMAN PARTICIPANT IN THE FIRST PHASE  
EURODIF STUDY (SEE BONN A-350 APRIL 1972) WAS FORMED  
BY GELSENBERG, HOECHST, NUKEM AND STEAG.

7. REGARDING STATEMENT CONTAINED IN EC SUMMIT  
COMMUNIQUE ON HARMONIZATION OF TWO URANIUM ENRICHMENT  
TECHNOLOGIES IN EUROPE, FRG REPS WERE UNABLE TO SAY HOW  
HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS ENVISAGED IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS  
OBJECTIVE IN PRACTICE. THEY IMPLIED THAT WORKING  
LEVELS WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE CLARIFICATION AND POLICY  
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GUIDANCE FROM THE TOP. PARENTHETICALLY, FRG REPS TOLD  
EMBOFFS THAT A PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE WHICH  
WOULD HAVE ASSIGNED PRIORITY TO EUROPEAN SOURCES OF  
URANIUM ENRICHMENT WAS STRICKEN ON THE INITIATIVE OF  
CHANCELLOR BRANDT.

8. FRG REPS NOTED EXISTENCE OF ADVANCED US GAS  
CENTRIFUGE R&D PROGRAMS AND ASKED ABOUT COOPERATION  
WITH THE US IN THIS AREA OF TECHNOLOGY. THEY BELIEVE  
THE EXISTENCE OF A QUADRIPARTITE CLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
WOULD FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR  
THE EXCHANGE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AT AN  
APPROPRIATE TIME. FOR THE PRESENT, THE ASSOCIATION  
FOR CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT (ACE) HAD BEGUN ITS FIRST  
PHASE UNCLASSIFIED STUDIES IN MID-1973 TO BE COMPLETED  
IN MID-1974. US PARTICIPATION WOULD BE WELCOMED.  
FRG REPS FORESAW NO NEED FOR US PARTICIPANTS TO  
SUPPLY ANY DATA DURING THIS FIRST PHASE -- URENCO  
WOULD SHARE ITS UNCLASSIFIED DATA WITH PARTICIPANTS.  
THE SECOND PHASE WOULD INVOLVE EXCHANGE OF CLASSIFIED  
DATA UNDER APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS AND AGREEMENT. FRG  
REPS UNDERSTOOD THAT AMERICAN GE COMPANY HAD BEEN  
DENIED PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN ACE. THEY WONDER  
WHETHER NEW US INITIATIVES FOR COOPERATION IN  
ENERGY R&D (POSSIBLY AN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO  
SECRETARY'S ENERGY ACTION GROUP PROPOSAL) WOULD PERMIT  
COOPERATION IN GAS CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY IN FUTURE.

9. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO  
THIS STATEMENT OF FRG INTEREST IN GAS CENTRIFUGE  
COOPERATION, EITHER IN CONTEXT OF SECRETARY'S  
PROPOSAL OR OTHERWISE.  
HILLENBRAND

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